



TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

June 28, 2011

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
Whitten Building, Room 200A
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

On Monday, June 27, 2011, Iowa State Emergency Board members met via conference call to review Damage Assessment Reports (DARs) submitted by Iowa counties to the Farm Service Agency (FSA). In accordance with the State Emergency Board's recommendation, I respectfully request that you, under your authorities, provide disaster designation for the following six (6) Iowa counties:

Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie, and Woodbury.

Iowa producers in these counties are sustaining damage due to flooding along the Missouri River and its tributaries. High rates of snow melt from the Montana mountains and persistent heavy rains throughout the Missouri River Basin have contributed to high discharge rates from dams in South Dakota. Flooding has washed out planted acres, prevented planting of crops, damaged emerging plants, and will prevent re-planting of crops. In addition, producers are experiencing damage to farm buildings, grain storage structures, livestock buildings, equipment, and other conservation and flood control structures.

Montana mountain snow runoff continues to flow at up to 200% of normal, filling the upstream Missouri River dam structures. The current discharge rate from the Gavins Point, South Dakota dam is 160,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) which is over two times the previous record discharge of 70,000 cfs. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gavins Point will continue to discharge at this rate for an unspecified period of time, and at no less than 150,000 cfs through August 15, 2011. Given these statistics, this long-duration event will result in potentially significant production and agricultural systems losses in affected areas.

I want to express my gratitude to FSA State Executive Director John Whitaker and his staff for their assistance with this request. They have worked to assure timely DARs and to maximize USDA assistance for our farmers. I appreciate their expertise and efforts.

The State FSA will forward, under separate cover, the DARs and analysis to your office for review.

Thank you for considering this request for Secretarial Disaster Designation during these trying times for our farmers. If additional information is required, please contact Mark Shearer, Iowa Homeland Security Emergency Management Division of the Department of Public Defense at 515-725-3206.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Terry E. Branstad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "B" and "S".

Terry E. Branstad
Governor of Iowa

CC: Mr. John Whitaker, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency

Brig. Gen. J. Derek Hill, Administrator, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Division

Secretary Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land
Stewardship